

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /072 W
-----141447Z 023825 /44
R 141205Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3833

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM PINT CI
SUBJECT: GOC TRIES TO EXPLAIN DISAPPEARED

REF: SANTIAGO 1972

1. IN A STATEMENT MARCH 10 THE GOC SUGGESTED SEVERAL POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVES TO EXPLAIN RECURRENT MYSTERIOUS DISAPPEARANCES. THE GOC SLIGHTLY SHIFTED ITS OBDURATE INITIAL REACTION TO THE SUBMISSION OF A PETITION REGARDING 501 MISSING PERSONS ON MARCH 8 (REFTEL). THE GOC REMINDED ITS CITIZENS THAT MANY TERRORISTS WERE KILLED IN BATTLES WITH SECURITY FORCES BETWEEN SEPTEMBER 11, 1973 AND THE END OF 1975, AND THAT MANY OF THE RESULTING CASUALTIES WERE NEVER IDENTIFIED. MANY EXTREMISTS FLED THE COUNTRY OR CHANGED THEIR IDENTITY AND REMAIN CLANDESTINELY IN CHILE. AND FINALLY, THERE WILL ALWAYS BE A CERTAIN NUMBER OF DISAPPEARED PERSONS EACH YEAR, A NORMAL COCURRENCE IN EVERY COUNTRY.

2. INTENT ON SHOWING THE GOVERNMENT'S GOOD FAITH, THE STATEMENT STRONGLY ASSERTED THE GOC'S RESPECT FOR LIFE. IT ALSO ACKNOWLEDGED THE CITIZENS' RIGHT TO PETITION THE GOVERNMENT BUT QUICKLY ADDED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WILL NOT ACCEPT ANY ACTIONS TAKEN BY "POLITICIZED PEOPLE" TRYING TO

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INFLUENCE THE COURTS. THERE WAS AN APPEAL TO PATRIOTIC SENTIMENTS, AND AN IMPLICIT CRITICISM OF THE MANY RESPECTABLE PEOPLE WHO HAD SIGNED THE RECENT PETITION ON THE DISAPPEARED (REFTEL). THE STATEMENT ENDED WITH A REMINDER THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT HESITATE TO EMPLOY ITS MAXIMUM ENERGY AS OFTEN AS NEEDED TO MAINTAIN AND ASSURE PEACE, TRANQUILITY AND ORDER WITHIN THE

COUNTRY.

3. IN AN ASIDE FOR THE USG, THE GOC ALSO NOTED "IT IS PROFOUNDLY STRANGE THAT NATIONS, TRADITIONAL FRIENDS OF CHILE, JOIN WITH COUNTRIES WHO SYSTEMTICALLY AND WITH IMPUNITY VIOLATE HUMAN RIGHTS, THUS ACTING AGAINST THE SURVIVAL OF THE FREE WORLD."

4. COMMENT: THE VARIOUS GOC EXPLANATIONS FOR THE DISAPPEARNCES HARDLY CLOSE THE CASE. THE EXPLANATIONS HAVE BEEN OFFERED TO CRITICS ABROAD ON VARIOUS OCCASIONS. WHAT IS NEW IS THAT THE GOC FINALLY FELT IMPELLED TO MAKE THEM TO ITS OWN CITIZENS.

POPPER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WELFARE & WHEREABOUTS, POLITICAL PRISONERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 14-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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